

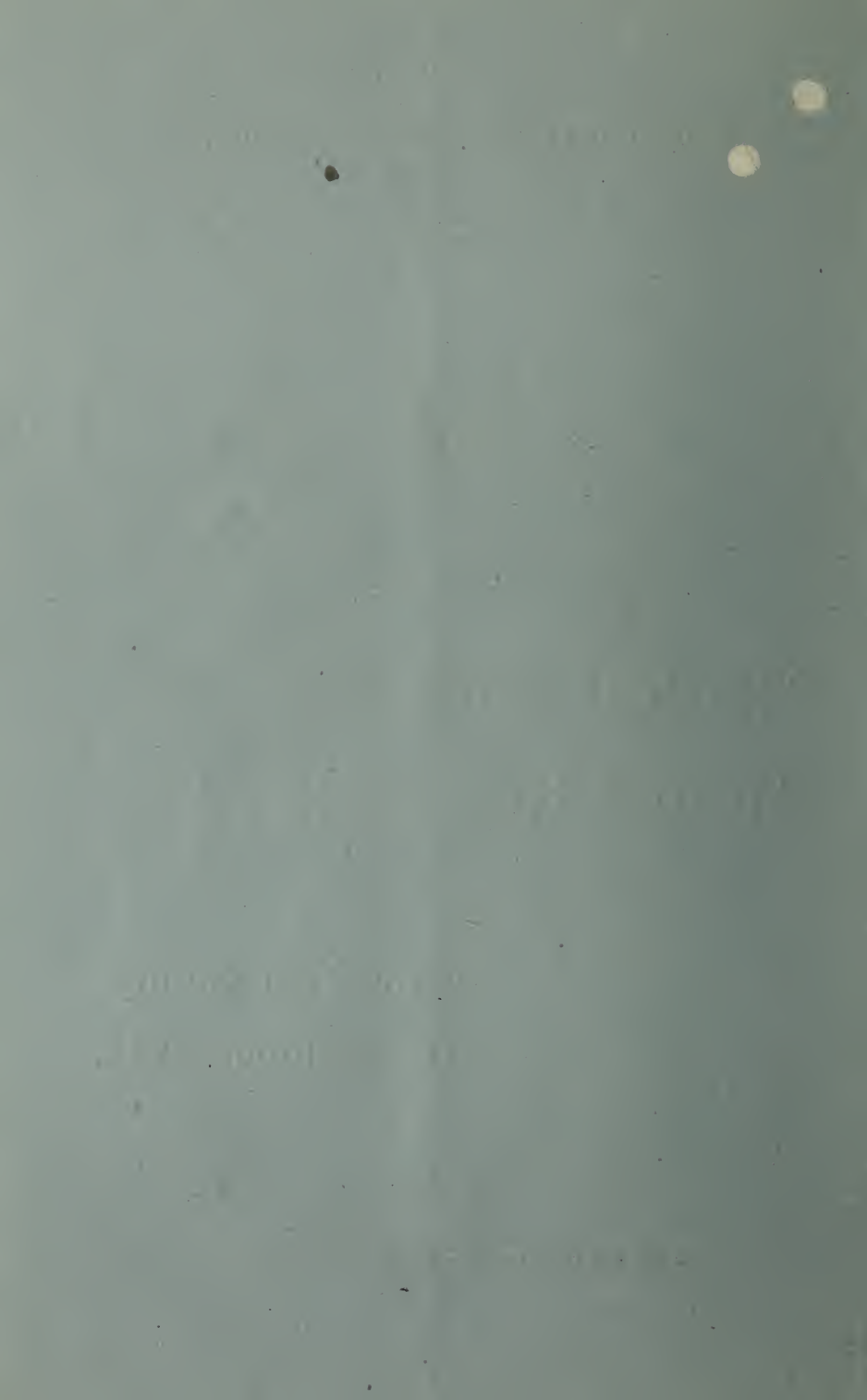
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MUNICIPAL BOROUGH OF FLINT.



Medical Officer's Annual Report ::

For the Year ending
31st December, 1943.



MUNICIPAL BOROUGH OF FLINT.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Members of the Borough
Council of Flint.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you, in the following pages, my Report on the health of the Borough of Flint in respect of the year 1943.

The Health Officers directly serving the Authority are:—

Name and Address of Officer.	Description of Appointment.	Qualifications, etc.
Mr. J. Bibby Denny, Town Hall, Flint	...Clerk (retired Dec., 1943)	
Mr. J. Calvin Hughes, Town Hall, Flint	...Treasurer and Acting Clerk	
Dr. W. A. F. Twemlow, 33, Church Street, Flint	...Medical Officer (part-time)	...M.R.S.C. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.).
Mr. G. E. Clarke, Surveyor's Office, Earl Street, Flint.	...Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector	...M. Inst. M. & C.E.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area.—The area of the Borough remained unchanged at the end of the year at 6,243 statutory acres.

Population.—For reasons of National Security, figures relating to the population of the area are omitted from this Report.

Financial Conditions.—In respect of the year beginning 1st April, 1943, the rateable value was £61,330, and the product of a penny rate £238. The corresponding figures for the previous year were respectively £61,254 and £237.

Vital Statistics.—In the several Tables which follow are set out the vital statistics for the year under report and, for purposes of comparison, the corresponding figures for the previous year are also shown. Where possible, I have shown the various rates in respect of the past year, for England and Wales:—

TABLE 1.—BIRTHS.

Classification.	Rate per 1000 civilian population.		Rate per 1000 total (live & still b ^r ths).	
	1943.	1942.	1943.	1942.
Live Births—				
Legitimate	20.30	17.46	—	—
Illegitimate ... ..	.67	.80	—	—
Legitimate & Illegitimate	20.97	18.26	—	—
Stillbirths—				
Legitimate ... ..	.67	.72	31.00	37.97
Illegitimate	—	.08	—	4.22
Legitimate & Illegitimate	.67	.80	31.00	42.19
All Births (live and still) ...	21.64	19.06	—	—

The rates for England and Wales for the year 1943 were:—
Live births, per 1,000 population, 16.5; Stillbirths .51.

TABLE 2.—DEATHS (General) ANALYSIS.

Cause of Death.	Rate per 1000 population.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Causes, other than those below specified ...	1.51	1.34	2.85
Heart Disease	1.26	.92	2.18
Intracranial Vascular Lesions... ..	.84	.50	1.34
Cancer (sites other than elsewhere specified)	.67	.42	1.09
Pneumonia ... ..	.67	.17	.84
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System... ..	.25	.42	.67
Violent Causes (other than those specified)	.50	.08	.58
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	.25	.25	.50
Diabetes	—	.42	.42
Cancer of Breast	—	.33	.33
Cancer of buc. Cav. & Oesoph (M), Uterus (F)	—	.33	.33
Diphtheria ... ..	.17	.17	.34
Bronchitis ... ..	.33	—	.33
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum... ..	—	.25	.25
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ... ..	.25	—	.25
Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ... ..	.08	.17	.25
Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	.08	.17	.25
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury In-			
fantile Diseases ... ..	.25	—	.25
Appendicitis ... ..	.17	—	.17
Nephritis ... ..	.17	—	.17
Premature Birth... ..	.17	—	.17
Road Traffic Accidents... ..	.17	—	.17
Whooping Cough ... ..	.08	.08	.16
Tuberculosis (other forms)	—	.08	.08
Influenza ... ..	.08	—	.08
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	.08	—	.08
All Causes	8.05	6.12	14.17
Do. 1942	—	—	10.05
Rate for England and Wales, 1943 ...	—	—	12.10

TABLE 3.—DEATHS (Childbirth).

I am pleased to report that, as in the previous two years, no death occurred at, or in consequence of, childbirth.

TABLE 4.—DEATH RATES (Infantile).
(i.e., Infants under 1 year of age).

All Infants ...	Rate per 1,000 live births ...	60.00
Legitimate Infants...	Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	57.18
Illegitimate Infants...	Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	50.00

All Infants (England & Wales)... Rate per 1,000 live births 49.00

The Infantile Death Rate for the Borough for 1942 was 61.67.

The Death Rate (per 1,000 live births) from Diarrhoea in children under 2 years of age, in respect of the year under report, was 12.00, whereas for the previous year it was 8.81. The corresponding rate for England & Wales as a whole was 5.3.

Sickness (Special Causes).—As will be seen from a Table appearing later in this Report, there was, as compared with the year 1942, a considerable increase in the number of notified cases of the following infectious diseases, viz., Measles, Whooping Cough, Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

The outbreak of Diphtheria occurred towards the end of the year and immediate and energetic measures were taken to control the spread of the disease. All school children were kept under close observation by the County Medical Officer and his Assistants, and those found with suspicious symptoms were excluded from school and their parents were advised to consult their family doctor without delay. The Schools were, on several occasions, thoroughly sprayed with Formalin.

It was particularly gratifying and encouraging to note the whole-hearted and effective co-operation which existed between the Health Officers of the Borough and those of the County Council in dealing with the outbreak.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—The number of children immunised against Diphtheria again showed an increase, the total to the end of the year being 3,147. The percentages of children treated were as follows:—

	1943.	1942.
Children under 5 years ...	66.2	46.2
Children from 5 to 15 years ...	81.1	77.8

It is very encouraging to note that, during 1943, many parents, who previously were apathetic towards the scheme, brought their children to be immunised.

This appreciable improvement was, no doubt, largely the result of a propaganda scheme carried out in the area from September to November, as a result of which 200 children were immunised during that period.

The Officers concerned received a letter from the Ministry of Information congratulating them on the success of the scheme.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Laboratory Facilities (General).—During the year under report, considerable advantage was taken of the excellent facilities provided by the Emergency Public Health Laboratories at Conway, under the supervision of Dr. Hoare, for pathological and bacteriological specimens.

The services provided by these laboratories were particularly appreciated in the latter part of the year, when much valuable help and advice was received by your Health Officers from this source in their efforts to combat the outbreak of Diphtheria, and many swabs were tested at the laboratories for Diphtheria bacilli.

Midwifery.—Five qualified midwives practised domiciliary midwifery in the area during the year, one of whom is employed full-time by the County Council.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.—The following is a list of the Centres and Clinics at which facilities for consultation and/or treatment are available to the residents of the Borough:—

Clinic.	Situation.	Dates and Times of Opening.
Tuberculosis		
(Provided by the Welsh Nat. Memorial Association under arrangements made by the County Council).	Cottage Hospital, Holywell.	Every Tuesday, 10-30 a.m.
	Oaklands, Queens-ferry.	Every Wednesday, 10 a.m.

Venereal Diseases

(Under arrangements...Royal Infirmary, ...Males: Every Wednesday, 5—7 p.m.
made by the County Chester. Every Saturday, 12 noon—2 p.m.
Council). Females: Every Monday, 5—7 p.m.
Every Thursday, 5—7 p.m.

Ante-Natal

(Provided by County...The Clinic, Boro'...First & 3rd Thursdays of month,
Council). Grove, Flint. 9-30 a.m.—12 noon.

Infant Welfare and Post-Natal

(Provided by County...The Clinic, Boro'...Every Monday, 1-30-4-30 p.m. Medical
Council). Grove, Flint. Officer attends 2nd & 4th Monday each month.

School Clinic

(Provided by County...The Clinic, Boro'...Every Tuesday, 9-30
Council). Grove, Flint. a.m.—12 noon.

Orthopædic

(Provided by County...Holywell—Cottage...2nd & 4th Friday each
Council). Hospital. month, 10 a.m.—12 noon.
Rhyl—Old Emmanuel School, ...2nd & 4th Friday each month, 1-30—3-30 p.m.
Vale Road.
Shotton—New ...1st & 3rd Friday each month, 10-30 a.m.
Clinic, Central School. 1-30 p.m.

Hospitals.—The only hospital within the Borough is the Flint Cottage Hospital. It is served by four Medical Practitioners, acting as honorary Medical Officers. The following paragraph, extracted from the Hospital's Report for the year ended 30th April, 1944, gives particulars of the service which it rendered to the area during that period:—

“The number of in-patients admitted was 346, there being 14 deaths, 235 operations (which included 93 major), the average stay of the patient being $10\frac{1}{2}$ days. There were 144 out-patients who attended the Hospital, which involved 318 dressings. Over 2,000 visits were paid to patients at their homes by the District Nurse.”

It is also noted from the Report that "arrangements have been made which will enable them to put a Mobile X-Ray Unit into full use at a very early date." I am glad to report that this Unit is now installed and come into operation.

Many cases are also sent from the district to the Royal Infirmary, Chester, under arrangements made privately or through Works' Hospital Schemes and the Deeside Hospitals Council's Penny-in-the-Pound Scheme.

Maternity and Nursing Homes.—There is no Maternity or Nursing Home in the Borough. The County Council, however, provides accommodation for Maternity Cases at its Maternity Home at Mancott Royal, about six miles distant from Flint. The fees for this accommodation are very moderate. Necessitous cases are admitted at reduced rates or free of charge.

War-time Nursery.—A splendidly-equipped Day Nursery has been erected near the Council School to accommodate children, under 5 years of age, of women engaged in war work.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances.

Water and Water Supplies.—Throughout the years 1940 to 1943 the water supply has, in all respects, been satisfactorily maintained from the point of view of quantity and quality. As an added safeguard, the water is chlorinated. There are very few standpipes now in use in the area. The sources of supply have not been changed and, where laid on, the supply is constant and under pressure.

In a few isolated cases water is drawn from small springs or wells but, in all such cases, the use of the water is kept under constant supervision.

Drainage and Sewerage.—There is nothing of importance to report under this head.

Public Cleansing.—I have nothing to add to my remarks made in previous reports.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.—All complaints made to the Authority were investigated, and sanitary defects brought to notice in this manner, as well as those discovered during routine inspections, were effectively dealt with.

Controllable Premises and Workshops.—Sanitary conditions and arrangements were found, on inspection, to be satisfactory.

Miscellaneous Complaints.—Notices have been issued for the following complaints:—

Lopping of Hedges	...	...	...	...	3
Repairs to Closets	...	...	...	...	2
Works to Drains	...	...	...	...	1
Abate Nuisance	...	...	...	...	3
Supply Dustbin	...	...	...	...	1

SANITARY INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION.

The following Table summarises the inspections made and the action taken by the Public Health Department to remedy defects found by, or reported to, the Department during the year:—

Inspection of Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	22
do. Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	1
do. Courts, Yards and Passages	...	...	...	—
do. Privy Middens, Earth or Pail Closets	...	...	...	1
Number of Cesspools emptied and cleansed	...	...	...	44
Remedying Defective House Drainage	...	...	...	175
Inspection of Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	1
Infectious Disease and Re-visits	...	...	...	69
Fumigations	...	...	...	41

SECTION D.—Housing.

I have nothing to report under this head with the exception of particulars given by my comments at the end of this Report.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk and Miik Supplies.—During the year under review 27 inspections were made at farms in the area and, I am pleased to state that, conditions were on all occasions found to be satisfactory. Two additional suppliers were registered during the year.

The National Milk Testing Scheme came into operation in August and, by the end of the year 77 samples had been taken, the majority of which were found to be satisfactory as regards keeping quality. Much of the milk now supplied in the Borough is pasteurised.

Meat and Other Foods. Routine visits were made to shops, slaughter-houses, bakehouses, etc. Sanitary conditions were generally found to be satisfactory and proprietors readily responded to advice and suggestions given by your Health Officers.

The following list gives particulars of foods condemned as unfit for human consumption and consequently were disposed of:—

65 tins Chopped Ham	48 tins Beef	8 tins Sausage Meat
82 tins Fruit	189 tins Fish	3 tins Party Loaf
4 cartons Apricot pulp	5 stone Herrings	1 tin Jam
36 tins Pork	15 tins Soup	100lbs. Milled Rice
83 tins Milk	177lbs. Bacon	3 tins Spam
157 tins Vegetables	1 case Prunes	14 tins (Mixed)

Adulteration, Etc.—Food sampling and analysing is carried out under arrangements made by the County Council.

SECTION F. NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Name of Disease.	No. of Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.
Measles	114	—
Whooping Cough...	45	—
Pneumonia	43	—
Diphtheria	23	18
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—
Scarlet Fever	39	20
Erysipelas	2	—
Enteric Fever	1	—
Total	269	38

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.	Number of Cases notified has having occurred among persons of the ages immediately below specified.														Total.
	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	6-	7-	8-	9-	11-				
Measles ... ..	...	10	14	30	22	18	13	2	2	1	2	...	...	...	114
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	8	12	10	2	5	6	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	45
							10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	65-	80-	
Pneumonia	1	1	1	3	2	3	2	2	5	2	1	8	9	3	43
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	3	2	10	13	8	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	39
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	4	10	4	1	1	2	...	...	...	23
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2
Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1

Scabies.—During 1943, the Ministry of Information exhibited a film to Officials of the Council and the District Health Visitors on the subject of the "Diagnosis and Treatment of Scabies." It now appears from observations made during this year that there has been a lessening in the prevalence of this disease.

Isolation.—The Authority is a constituent member of the St. Asaph Joint Hospital Board, and accommodation is consequently provided at the St. Asaph Isolation Hospital for cases of Infectious Disease from the Borough. Such cases are transported to the hospital in the Ambulance provided by the Hospital Board.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases notified during 1943.

Age Groups.				New Cases,				Total Cases.
				Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		
			Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.		
0-	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
1-	...	...	—	—	2	—	2
15-	...	...	—	4	1	4	9
25-	...	...	2	1	—	—	3
35-	...	...	—	1	—	—	1
45-	...	...	3	—	—	—	3
55-	...	...	1	—	—	—	1
65-	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
All ages			6	6	3	4	19	

Tuberculosis—Cases on the Register at end of 1943.

Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.			Total Cases.
Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
59	40	99	21	24	45	144

General.—Two aspects of the health of the Borough have given cause for some anxiety during the past year, viz., in the increase in the number of Infectious Diseases and the increase in the number of Deaths, especially of persons over 65 years of age.

In spite of this, I am of the firm opinion that the general standard of health is well maintained, and that the strain of nearly five years of war and war-time rationing has not exacted any serious toll on the general health of the Borough.

The Birth rate has also increased, as is usual during war-time, and this, in view of government statements on the desirability of increasing the post-war population, may be considered satisfactory.

I have already mentioned in this Report that the main agents of health in the Borough, viz., a good milk supply, clean wholesome water, and an efficient system of drainage can, very truly, be said to be in our possession, and all this must be considered highly satisfactory as our first line of defence against disease.

Housing, however, may very soon present us, in common with other Local Authorities, with problems which we will do well to consider immediately, so that our plans can become operative as soon as circumstances permit. In conjunction with the plans which are being drawn up in readiness for post-war Town Planning, I would recommend that provision be made for building, immediately opportunity occurs, a number of houses adequate to accommodate families of three, four, and even five members of a family, built on generous ground space, with air space between, and gardens both back and front.

A detailed preparation of this scheme now may save much irritation and delay when the return of service men occurs after the war. If sites have been selected, as I understand they have, may I suggest that the plans be proceeded with so that they can be amended if necessary, and everything will then be ready for the actual building when that becomes possible.

In conclusion, I should like to take this opportunity of thanking all the members of the Council and their Officials, who have assisted me so ably by their whole-hearted support and co-operation, and so enabled me to compile this Report with the minimum amount of work.

I remain, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Very faithfully yours,

W. A. F. TWEMLOW,

Medical Officer of Health.

33, Church Street,
Flint, July, 1944.

